

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

1c972 U.S. PTO
10/023607
12/18/01

In re Application of)
Thorsten Wojciechowski) Group Art Unit:
Application No. (Unassigned)) Examiner:
Filed: (Herewith))
For: *Connection Device and*)
Associated Process) Peoria, IL 61602-1241
Attorney Docket No.: 3954/59156-100) 18 December 2001

Honorable Director of the United States
Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, DC 20231

Acknowledged
12/13/03 **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**
Sir:

The following information and attached material are submitted for the Examiner's consideration relative to one or more of the claims in the above-identified application. Form PTO-1449 and a copy of each item listed thereon are attached.

Patent publications DE 199 22 425, DE 295 08 389 and DE 197 18 242 were cited in the German search report for 100 63 471.0, filed 19 December 2001, which corresponds to the present application. Also attached is a copy of the German search report and an English language version of that report to explain the relevance of the citation(s) cited therein as per MPEP 609A(3). In reviewing the foreign search report, it should be noted that the U.S. claim numbering is different from the corresponding German application, generally as follows:

U.S. Claim

Corresponding German
Application Claim No.

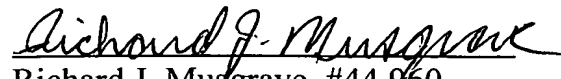
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16-17	12
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Patent publications DE 198 48 039 and DE 197 27 414 are discussed by the applicant in the Background of the Invention. The relevance of these documents to the claimed subject matter in this application is believed to be explained in the application.

One or more of the documents may have markings thereon. No significance is meant to be attached to the markings.

It is believed that this disclosure complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, and the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure §609. If for some reason the examiner considers otherwise, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be called so that any deficiencies can be remedied.

Respectfully submitted,


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